Research Institutions on Construction Materials

†2046. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of those research institutes which work on materials used in construction of buildings;

(b) whether National Council co-ordinates them; and

(c) the details of efforts being made to improve the quality of cement and decrease its price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The list of research institutes associated with building materials is enclosed as Statement (*see* below).

(b) The National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) carries out its activities independently. However, the NCCBM participates in standardization activities/ training programmes/seminars in which some of the above organizations may also take part.

(c) Some of the measures taken by the cement industry to improve the quality of cement and reduce its cost include: (i) assessment of the quality of raw materials being used for the manufacture of cement; (ii) optimization of raw material mix for desired cement clinker quality; (iii) assessment of the quality of blending component such as fly ash, blast furnace, slag etc. and optimization of its content for desired quality of blended cement; (iv) manufacture of blended/composite cement using fly ash, slag, limestone; (v) use of alternate fuels including pet coke, lignite, industrial wastes etc.; (vi) bulk transportation of cement by sea route, by road etc.; and (vii) minimization of energy wastes by optimization of operation.

Statement

List of Research Institutes associated with Building Materials

(i) Central Building Research Institute, Rurkee

(ii) Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, New Delhi

(iii) Central Soil & Materials Research Station, New Delhi

(iv) Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi

(v) Structural Engineering Research Centre, Chennai

(vi) National Metrallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur

(vii) Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur

(viii) Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ix) Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal

(x) Regional Research Laboratory, Bhubaneswar

(xi) Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram

(xii) Construction Industries Development Council, New Delhi

Foreign Investment Proposals sanctioned

†2047. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals sanctioned during the year 2007-08;

(b) the details thereof alongwith the areas in which investment has been made; and

(c) the target set for the year 2008-09 for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the Year 2007-08 (April-December 2007) 189 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in various sectors, amounting to US$ 3.34 billion have been approved. A detailed Statement of FDI approvals in various sectors is enclosed as Statement (*see* below)

(c) No target has been set for the year 2008-09.

Statement

Sector-wise FDI approved from April 2007 to December 2007

(Amount in US$ million)

Sl.	Name of the Sector	No. of Approvals Financial	Amount of Foreign Direct Investment Approved (in US$)	% to Total
1.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	11	1,563.62	46.81
2.	Service Sector	41	872.70	26.12
3.	Telecommunications	23	406.23	12.16
4.	Miscellaneous Industries	15	222.77	6.67
5.	Hotel & Tourism	5	78.40	2.35
6.	Transportation Industry	8	44.45	1.33
7.	Trading	28	29.59	0.89
8.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	1	24.90	0.75
9.	Consultancy Services	15	22.25	0.67
10.	Food Processing Industries	2	22.12	0.66
11.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	8	16.54.	0.50

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.